

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 18, 2018
9:00 A.M. MHS Auditorium
Helena, Montana

CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Nygard called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Joy Lewis took roll call.

Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members present: Tom Nygard, Bob Brown, Janene Caywood, Kent Kleinkopf, Jude Sheppard, Ed Jasmin, Hal Stearns, Chuck Johnson, Jim Court, Steve Lozar and Sam Phares.

Excused Board members: James Utterback, Crystal Shors, Thomas Minckler, Cliff Edwards

Staff present: MHS Director, Bruce Whittenberg; MHS SHPO Manager, Mark Baumler; MHS SHPO Community Preservation Coordinator, Kate Hampton; MHS Centralized Services Administrator, Denise King; MHS Outreach & Interpretation Manager, Kirby Lambert; MHS Research Center Manager, Molly Kruckenberg; MHS Publications Manager, Molly Holz; MHS Museum Collections Manager, Jennifer Bottomly O’looney and Curator of Collections, Amanda Streeter Trum.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Jim Court moved approval of the October 26, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Jasmin and passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Tom Nygard

Tom shared his thoughts on the coming year. He summarized the past year’s challenges, including surviving the massive 2017 budget cuts. He encouraged everyone to keep moving forward and do what we do best.

Executive Committee Report – Hal Stearns

Hal reported that Jim Murry will be visiting the Board meeting later. 2018 is off to a good start. Some examples are: membership is up, the website is thriving, and we received a major bequest to MHS from Jean Smith. He praised the staff for all their hard work and he talked about the importance of keeping the Heritage Center dream alive.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Bruce Whittenberg

Bruce passed around the Montreal Museum’s book highlighting the painting “Free Trapper” that MHS loaned to the museum last year. He shared an article from Inc. magazine entitled “8 Qualities of Remarkable Employees.”

He reviewed the highlights from 2017. We had no further damage from the Special Session. Critical Issues were reviewed in December. The *Times of Trouble, Times of Change* exhibit opened successfully. The Edmund B. Craney film and media archives storage facility is now complete. Fundraising is moving along and membership is growing. Social media is very important for MHS with 19,000 “likes” on

Facebook and with additional connections through Twitter. The PBS special “CM Russell and the American West” featured Kirby Lambert and Jennifer Bottomly O’looney. PBS used the Montana’s Charlie Russell book as a gift for their Fall fundraising campaign and purchased 110 copies. He shared a membership handout. Membership has been growing and it has essentially moved into the Store. Magazine subscribers were added to a year-end appeal mailing increasing the entire mailing by approximately 3,000. We generated 68 new donors this year and increased the total results by \$28,000 to \$112,931.

The Borick Foundation has given MHS more than \$300,000 since 2013, primarily for the Heritage Center. In light of the budget cuts, they offered to fund General Operations/Research Center for \$50,000 for FY 2018. The Liatis Foundation, affiliated with the Borick Family, has also donated generously since 2006 to the Heritage Center building fund, the Museum Program, the Publications Program, and the Research Center. Publications was the latest recipient of a \$5,000 Liatis grant for FY 2018.

Bruce reviewed the Critical Issues that were discussed in December’s meeting including Marketing and Development, Digital Strategies, Collections, Outreach & Relationship building and Long-term Strategic & Operational planning.

RESEARCH CENTER – Motion Action – Molly Kruckenberg

Molly presented the Deaccession List for approval. **Ed Jasmin made a motion to approve the Deaccession list. Chuck Johnson seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.** She reported that Jeff Malcomson accepted the position of Photograph Archives Manager. She explained that \$20,000 of the Borick Foundation grant is going toward the Film Archives Project. The remaining \$30,000 will help the Research Center continue some conservation and preservation projects. The Research Center also received a \$12,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of their Common Heritage program. It will allow staff to work with various communities to help digitize ephemera, objects and artifacts relevant to the area. Film Archives has been moving along very well with the help of a \$15,340 private donation. Kelly Burton has been uploading historic video for the MHS YouTube channel.

Molly showcased a film from the archives collections.

BREAK

MUSEUM PROGRAM – Motion Action – Jennifer Bottomly O’looney

Jennifer reported that they had received a loan request from the Governor’s Budget Office for four art pieces from the Capitol Art Loan collection. **A motion was made by Ed Jasmin to approve the loan and was seconded by Jude Sheppard. The motion was approved unanimously.**

A loan request was received from Carroll College for two mural-size Bob Morgan paintings. **A motion was made by Ed Jasmin to approve the loan and was seconded by Steve Lozar. The motion was approved unanimously.**

The new WWI exhibit is being received well and when the Hunting exhibit came down they re-purposed the log cabin to replace the old cabin in the Homeland exhibit. She showed a video depicting the deconstruction of the Hunting exhibit and the new construction of the WWI exhibit.

Discussion and questions followed.

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION – Kirby Lambert

Kirby is looking into posting exhibits online. They are planning a WWI mini symposium on the 100-year anniversary of the Armistice that will take place on Saturday, Nov 10, 2018.

They've been working on the Montana History Conference that will take place September 27-29, 2018 in Billings.

Starting in April they will feature a series of Montana history courses that will run for nine weeks and take place every Wednesday afternoon with OPI renewal credits available. It will start with Montana Pre-history. They will launch an online exhibit called *Appropriate, Curious & Rare: Montana History Object by Object* on February 2, MHS's birthday. You can help select objects from the online exhibit as part of the March Madness Sweet Sixteen competition. He showcased the webpage and the process of voting.

Discussion and questions followed.

PUBLICATIONS – Molly Holz

Molly reported on the next book "Stations, Trains, and A Trellis of Ties and Rails": Railroads and Communities in Montana and the West by Dale Martin.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE – Mark Baumler

Mark reported that this is a busy time of year for SHPO. He said they finished and submitted their annual report to the National Park Service. The Park Service approved the plan yesterday and Mark encouraged Board members to go online and view it. He informed the Board of the upcoming State Historic Review Board meeting on January 26 and handed out the agenda showcasing the six properties up for review.

He talked about the loss of the Frank Lloyd Wright building in Whitefish, MT recently, specifically in its latest iteration as the Lockridge Medical Clinic. The original building was constructed in 1960. Kate Hampton gave a presentation on the building and its significance and passed around a letter she wrote to the property owner in support of preserving the property.

Discussion and questions followed.

CENTRAL SERVICES – Denise King

Denise introduced Brett Dahl from the Risk Management and Tort Defense Division. Brett gave an overview of MHS's Fine Art Insurance Policy in a Power Point presentation. The MHS policy runs from July 1- June 30. He provided a Power Point handout. Discussion and questions followed.

Denise presented a video showing who does what in the Central Services Division. She previewed some new books available in the store and presented a review of the financials.

BREAK for tour of Film & Media Archives storage room

Meeting resumed 12:50 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Heritage Keeper Awards – has become an all-Board participation event. Announcement of the Award process and nomination deadline is forthcoming.

Nomination & Appointment of two additional Executive Committee Members:

Tom reported that Chuck Johnson and Steve Lozar have agreed to serve on the Executive Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - The Board agreed to move the next meeting to Friday, April 27.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

NEXT BOARD MEETING – April 27, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Ed Jasmin moved to adjourn and Janene seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

“The reason that this Society as a whole is going full blast is that we simply can’t believe that full support won’t be forthcoming.” – K. Ross Toole, 1954